AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method comprising:
storing a configuration for a distributed environment in a central storage of the distributed environment; and
updating a portion of the configuration in the distributed environment.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein updating comprises:
acquiring a lock for the portion of the configuration in a first node in the distributed environment;
modifying the portion of the configuration;
invalidating a representation of the portion of the configuration in the distributed environment; and
releasing the lock.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:
updating a database to reflect modifications of a portion of the configuration; and
blocking reads of the configuration during the updating.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:
notifying nodes in the distributed environment of the updated configuration data.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the lock is cluster wide.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:
writing changes to a shared database.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein modifying comprises:
changing a configuration object in a branch of a tree structure.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein invalidating comprises:
sending a cache invalidation event to another node in the cluster.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein invalidating comprises:
sending a message to a plurality of Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) nodes.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:

notifying registered listeners that the configuration has been changed.

11. (Original) A system comprising:

a plurality of nodes each having a instance of a configuration manager to maintain consistent storage of a configuration across the nodes without passing configuration modifications between the nodes;

a locking server shared by the plurality of nodes to coordinate access to the configuration; and

a database management system to provide an interface with a shared relational database, the database to store the configuration.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the configuring manager comprises:

a configuration cache; and

a configuration handler.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 12 wherein the configuration manager further comprises:

a persistency handler.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 11 further comprising:

a configuration handler to permit access to and modification of the configuration.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the configuration comprises:

a plurality of persistent objects holding information about a Java 2 enterprise edition cluster.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 15 wherein some of the persistent objects are cacheable.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the configuration manager comprises:

a change event listener to notify registered components of configuration change events.

18. (Original) A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:

storing a configuration for a distributed environment in a central storage of the distributed environment; and

updating a portion of the configuration in the distributed environment.

19. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 18 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:

acquiring a lock for the portion of the configuration in a first node in the distributed environment;

modifying the portion of the configuration;

invalidating a representation of the portion of the configuration in the distributed environment; and

releasing the lock.

20. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:

updating a database to reflect modifications of a portion of the configuration; and

blocking reads of the configuration during the updating.

21. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:

notifying node in the distributed environment of the current configuration data.

22. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating further comprises:

changing the configuration locally;

writing the changes to a shared database; and

committing the changes.

23. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein invalidating comprises:

sending a cache invalidation event to another node in the cluster.

24. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:

notifying registered listeners that the configuration has been changed.

25. (Original) A system comprising:

means for maintaining consistent storage of configuration information in a distributed environment;

means for controlling access to the configuration information; and

means for interfacing with a relational database system to provide persistent storage of the configuration information.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein the configuration information comprises:

a plurality of persistent objects holding information about a Java 2 Enterprise Edition cluster.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein the means for maintaining comprises:

a configuration cache resident in each node of the distributed environment; and

a configuration handler resident in each node of the distributed environment.